



Université de Dschang  
University of Dschang

FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES  
ÉCONOMIQUES ET DE GESTION

*Dschang School of Economics  
and Management*



**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**«A CROSS LOOK AT THE DECENTRALIZATION PROCESS  
IN AFRICA»**

**October 28 to 30, 2020**

**University of Dschang, Cameroon**

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**1. CONTEXT**

For at least three decades, most African countries have adopted decentralization as a conducive framework for economic, social, political and institutional development of the continent. Further than regionalization, and resulting in a transfer of competences from public authorities to subnational territorial collectivities, which themselves take charge of a greater part of their regulation, decentralization has today become the most efficient means of acceleration of national integration and inclusive development (Pasquier, 2012; Faure, Leressche, Muller and Nahrath, 2007).

Theoretically, decentralization is supposed to allow for a better consideration of local interests and improvement of living conditions of the populations through:

- (i) *Improving the effectiveness of mobilization and the distribution of resources.* According to Hayek (1945) and Musgrave (1959), decentralized provision of public services would therefore increase economic well-being beyond that which would result from centralized provision at the national level.
- (ii) *Promotion of citizen responsibility and reduction of corruption at the level of public authorities.*
- (iii) *Promotion and gains relating to a peaceful climate, thus promoting inter-cultural, inter-generational and inter-religious dialogue.*

Empirically, although the beginning of such a system has been observed since 1990 in Africa with the advent of multi-party system and the wind of democracy, studies relating to the spinoffs and prospects of decentralization on the African continent remain limited. Despite the efforts of political leaders, discordant speeches are more raised by the populations at the grassroots who have the impression of being disconnected from the central system.

It is on the axes to analyze challenges and prospects of decentralization in Africa that researchers, practitioners, civil society and politicians must deepen their reflections on this issue in a context of generalized quest for economic emergence of the continent. The question must therefore be approached from all its economic, political, legal, environmental, geographical, anthropological and socio-cultural dimensions so that a global view can emerge. The Center for Studies and

Research in Management and Economics (CERME) of the Faculty of Economics and Management sciences, and the Center for Studies and Research in Law and Development (CEREDD) of the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of the University of Dschang, therefore offer a platform of exchange through an international conference organize to take place from the 28 to 30 October 2020. It is a question of clarifying, through confrontation of viewpoints and analyzing the current direction of decentralization in Africa, so as to carry out a prospective analysis of questions which surround this process in the continent.

## **2. AXES OF REFLECTION**

To carry out this set of reflections, the conference will focus on three areas of research:

### **AXIS 1: DECENTRALIZATION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE**

Theme 1: Decentralization and local politics

Theme 2: Decentralization and principle of subsidiarity

Theme 3: Decentralization and management of local enterprises

Theme 4: Decentralization and local democracy

### **AXIS 2: DECENTRALIZATION AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT**

Theme 1: Decentralization and mobilization of local financial resources

Theme 2: Decentralization and management of specific local resources

Theme 3: Decentralization and women empowerment

Theme 4: Development planning for decentralization

Theme 5: Decentralization and public management

Theme 6: Decentralization and exploitation of research results

### **AXIS 3: COMPARED ANALYSIS OF DECENTRALIZATION EXPERIENCES**

Theme 1: Comparison of institutional trajectories of decentralization

Theme 2: Comparison of the results of local public policies

Theme 3: Comparative analysis of cultural heritage management

Theme 4: Decentralization and management of urban cities/towns

Theme 5: Socio-cultural and anthropological foundations of decentralization in Africa

However, any relevant contribution, even if it does not fall under one of the above themes, shall be welcomed.

### 3. TERMS OF SUBMISSION

Communication proposals (preferably full text or work in progress of 25 pages maximum), can be sent in French or English. They shall be anonymously evaluated by two reviewers using a pre-formatted reading guide, with the view of repartitioning the analysis and methods. Proposals from different disciplines and on various research subjects are encouraged. Authors must first specify the axis and the theme in which their communication proposal is concerned.

Proposals should be sent no later than June 30, 2020 to: [davom99@gmail.com](mailto:davom99@gmail.com) or to [jkeutcheu@yahoo.fr](mailto:jkeutcheu@yahoo.fr) [paningaye@yahoo.fr](mailto:paningaye@yahoo.fr) [ongoema@yahoo.fr](mailto:ongoema@yahoo.fr) , [sonjacques@yahoo.fr](mailto:sonjacques@yahoo.fr) [kosamougnol@yahoo.fr](mailto:kosamougnol@yahoo.fr) and [animpa2002@yahoo.fr](mailto:animpa2002@yahoo.fr)

### 4. STANDARDS FOR PRESENTATION OF COMMUNICATIONS

The format for submitting communication texts must comply with the following instructions:

- The first page should bear the names and qualification of the author(s), and the title of the communication.
- The second page should have only the title of the communication, a summary (250 words) in French and in English and 3 to 5 keywords.
- The text should be typed in Word format, Times News Roman 12 front size on A4 with margins of 2.5 cm, single spacing. It should include 20 to 25 pages of bibliography, references and appendices.
- The parts/contents should follow a simple numbering: I, II, or 1, 2, etc.
- No endnotes (footnotes only): size 10, numbering continuously; no page breaks in the document; all graphic elements should be aligned with the text.
- Citations should comply with the APA method.

The cost of participation in the symposium is 65,000 FCFA or about 100 Euros. This cost shall cover meals (coffee breaks, lunch and dinner) throughout the conference. In addition, authors whose papers shall be accepted will benefit from institutional support for their transport fare by road from Douala airport for participants coming from outside. All other costs relating to their participation in the conference (participation and accommodation costs) shall be their responsibility.

For more information, contact :

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### 5. IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- Opening of the call for papers: **February 1, 2020**
- Deadline for submission of communication proposals: **June 30, 2020**
- Notification to the authors of the selected communication proposals: **July 15, 2020**
- Deadline for sending corrected versions of communication proposals: **September 15, 2020**
- Registration deadline: **October 15, 2020**
- Beginning of the conference: **October 28 to 30, 2020**

The conference proceedings shall be published in a collective work by the FSEG and the FSJP.

## **6. ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

### **Organizing Committee and Co-coordinators of the conference:**

Pr AVOM Désiré (FSEG) and Pr KEUTCHEU Joseph (FSJP)

#### **Members:**

ASSONTSA Robert (University of Dschang), FEUDJO Jules Roger (University of Dschang), FOTSING MANGOUA Robert (University of Dschang), KENECK MASSIL Joseph (Université de Yaoundé II-Soa), NINGAYE Paul (University of Dschang), MIAMO Clovis (Université de Dschang), MIGNAMISSI Dieudonné (University of Yaoundé II-Soa), NEMBOT NDEFFO Luc (University of Dschang), NGAMENI Pasky (University of Dschang), ONGO NKOA Bruno (University of Dschang), SONG Jacques (University of Dschang), TOTOUOM Armand (University of Dschang).

## **7. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

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